

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB

SUBJ: ELIMINATION OF SENAT DEPARTMENT

REF: USBERLIN 0393

1. ONE CONSEQUENCE OF LIEHR AFFAIR (REFTEL) IS SENAT
DECISION ON MARCH 2 TO ABOLISH SENAT DEPARTMENT OF
TRANPORTATION AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES. VARIOUS ELEMENTS
OF THIS DEPARTMENT ARE TO BE DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:
TRANSPORTATION IS TO GO TO DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
(WHICH HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS AREA PRIOR TO CREATION
OF DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC EXTERPRISES
IN APRIL 1975); ECONOMICS WILL ALSO CONTROL PUBLIC
ENTERPRISES OF GASAG (GAS COMPANY), BEHALA (HARBOR AND
WAREHOUSE COMPANY) AND BERLIN EXHIBITS (ECONOMICS
ALREADY RESPONSIBLE FOR FAIRGROUNDS COMPANY AND IT
IS NOW ANTICIPATED THAT THERE WILL BE CREATED SINGLE
COMPANY RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL EXHIBITS, EXHIBITIONS AND
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CONGRESSES IN BERLIN); DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WILL TAKE OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR BERLIN SANITATION COMPANY AND SPANDAU SLAUGHTERHOUSE; DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING AND HOUSING IS TO ASSUME CONTROL OVER BERLIN TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (BVG), CITY WATERWORKS AND SEWAGE SYSTEM; POLITICALLY-SENSITIVE KPM (PORCELAIN FACTORY) IS TO BE GIVEN TO DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (PERHAPS TO BE SOLD TO HIGHEST BIDDER); AND TOURIST OFFICE WILL BECOME RESPONSIBILITY OF SENAT PRESS AND INFORMATION OFFICE.

2. SENAT CHANCELLERY CHIEF HERZ TOLD MISOFF THAT REORGANIZATION WOULD BECOME EFFECTIVE UPON NOTIFICATION TO HOUSE OF REPS AT NEXT SESSION, MARCH 11. HE ADDED THAT IN EXPLAINING DECISION, SENAT WILL NOTE THAT EXPERIENCE GAINED OVER PAST 11 MONTHS DEMONSTRATED THAT FINANCIAL SAVINGS COULD BE EFFECTED BY DISTRIBUTING FUNCTIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES OVER SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS, THEREBY ELIMINATING SALARIES FOR SENATOR, TWO SENAT DIRECTORS AND ASSORTED SUPPORT PERSONNEL.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT LABOR UNIONS (PARTICULARLY OETV, PUBLIC SECTOR UNION) ARE UNHAPPY WITH BREAKUP OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AS THEY HAD FOUND IT USEFUL TO HAVE ONLY ONE PRESSURE POINT, BUT NOW MUST DEAL WITH SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS. SENATOR RISTOCK, HEAD OF BUILDING AND HOUSING, TOLD MISOFF MARCH 3 THAT IN ACQUIRING CONTROL OF BVG, HE ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR 15,000 EMPLOYEES (AND THEREFORE BECAME A PRIME TARGET FOR UNION PRESSURE IN FUTURE, A HEADACHE COULD HAVE DONE WITHOUT.) ANOTHER FEAR OF LABOR UNIONS IS THAT SENAT MAY BE PLANNING TO DIVEST ITSELF OF ONE OR MORE OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES, ALTHOUGH DURING ZEHLENDORF ELECTION CAMPAIGN SCHUETZ SPECIFICALLY SOUGHT TO COUNTER SUCH RUMORS. GEORGE

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